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THE MERE RAISING OF BERLIN QUESTION WITH SUBSEQUENT WESTERN DISCUSSION OF HOW TO DEAL WITH SOVIET INITIATIVE AND CONSTANT SOVIET REITERATION OF TWO GERMANIES HAS, IT SEEMS TO ME, TENDED TO ENHANCE PRESTIGE OF GDR. THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT IN OUR REPLY TO SOVIET NOTE WOULD BE WELL TO INCLUDE SECTION DESIGNED TO EXPOSE PHONY NATURE EAST GERMAN REGIME. REPLIES, PARTICULARLY THAT OF WEST GERMANY, MIGHT USEFULLY CITE STATISTICS ON REFUGEES AND BERLIN ELECTION RESULTS.

EXAMPLE OF CONFUSED THINKING IN WEST WAS REMARK OF MY NEW ITALIAN COLLEAGUE WHO STATED HE WAS CONSIDERING RECOMMENDING TO HIS GOVERNMENT SOME STEP TO RELAX TENSION AND THOUGHT ACCEPTANCE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR NON-AGGRESSION PACT WOULD BE ADVISABLE STEP. WHEN I POINTED OUT THIS WOULD INVOLVE AT LEAST TACIT RECOGNITION GDR WITH NO COMPENSATING CONCESSION HE EXPRESSED OPINION WE COULD NO LONGER DODGE FACT THAT TWO GERMANIES EXISTED.

MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE EXPRESSED OPINION WE SHOULD FIGHT IF NECESSARY TO KEEP OUR TROOPS IN BERLIN BUT SHOULD ACCEPT EXAMINATION OF DOCUMENTS AT CONTROL POINTS BY GDR POINTING OUT DANGERS OF REFUSAL ON OUR PART AND FACT THAT WEST GERMANS HAD SUBMITTED TO THIS PROCEDURE WITH NO GREAT DIFFICULTY.

THOMPSON

762.00/12-1958

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